

[*To the Fool*] Why, how now, captain ? what do you in this wise company ? — How dost thou, Apemantus?

APEM. 'Would I had a rod in my mouth, that I might answer thee profitably,

PAGE. Pr'ythee, Apemantus, read me the superscription of these letters ; I know not which is which.

APEM. Canst not read ?

PAGE. No.

APEM. There will little learning die then, that day thou art hanged. This is to lord Timon ; this to Alcibiades. Go ; thou wast born a bastard, and thoult die a bawd.

PAGE. Thou wast whelped a dog ; and thou shalt famish, a dog's death. Answer not, I am gone.

[*Exit*

Page.

APEM. Even so thou out-run'st grace. Fool, I will go with you to lord Timon's.

FOOL. Will you leave me there ?

APEM. If Timon stay at home. — You three serve three usurers ?

ALL SERF. Ay ; 'would they served us !

APEM. So would I, — as good a trick as ever hangman served thief.

I have not hesitated to print *mistress* in both places. *Master* was frequently printed in the old copy instead of *mistress*, and *uzc^ versa*, from the ancient mode of writing an *M.* only, which stood in the MSS. of Shakspeare's time either for the one or the other ; and the copyist or printer completed the word without attending " to the context. This abbreviation is found in *Coriolanus*, folio, 1623, p. 21 :

" Where's Cotus ? My *M.* calls for him? " Again, more appositely, in *The Merchant of Venice*, 1623 :

" What ho, *M.* [*Master*] Lorenzo, and *M.*

[*Mistress*] Lo-
renzo."

In vol. v. p. 396, n. 1 ; and *Henry VI. Part I. Act. I. Sc. III.* are found corruptions similar to the present, in consequence of the printer's completing the abbreviated word of the MS. improperly.

MALONB,